

2-18-1997

Resolution on proposed tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Reduction

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution # 6

S.U.N.Y.
COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT
RECEIVED

1996-97
1995-96

FEB 26 1997

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: February 17, 1997

FACULTY SENATE
BROCKPORT, NY 14420

RECEIVED
SUNY BROCKPORT

FEB 18 1997

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
For your information

PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

SUBJ: Resolution on proposed Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) reduction

Signed: Anne H. Pearson Date Sent: 2/18/97
(Faculty Senate President)

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

- a. Accepted. Effective Date: 2/19/97
- b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on / /
- c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III.

a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment: _____

DISTRIBUTION: _____

Distribution Date: 2/19/97 Signed: _____

(President of the College)

forms disk::resform.wp6::1995/10/31::ayk

Whereas the Governor's Executive Budget proposes an initial reduction of \$124.3 million in funding for SUNY, to be partially offset by a tuition increase of not more than \$400 per year to raise approximately \$60 million in revenue for SUNY, leaving a deficit in operational funding of \$64.3 million...

And whereas, the Governor's budget proposes reductions in the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding in net student benefits for New York State students of \$170.2 million....

And whereas the public sector, SUNY, will be impacted more than the private colleges, as shown in the following SUNY Brockport analyses:

- The proposal to offset one-half of a student's Federal Pell Grant against tuition before the calculation of a TAP award was proposed and discarded last year. The impact of this resubmitted provision will affect 931 of our students with a resulting \$577,822 reduction in TAP funding. This proposal is particularly detrimental as it reduces aid to the neediest students who usually are Federal Pell recipients.
- The proposal to utilize a "derived Net Taxable Income" from the Federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) would effectively eliminate from the program those single independent students with a \$10,000 or above AGI and all others with an AGI exceeding \$50,500. At SUNY Brockport, 523 students would become ineligible with a loss of \$212,404 in TAP aid.
- The proposal to decouple TAP from public university tuition increases will have a significant impact on SUNY. This means that as SUNY tuition increases, the amount of TAP awards would not increase as it will at private schools. Assuming a \$400 tuition increase, the 2,880 students receiving TAP would have an additional \$596,029 in tuition expenses (in the next year alone) that would not be covered by TAP.
- Currently, TAP awards are reduced by \$200 per year for payments beyond the fourth semester. It is proposed to make an increase in the uppercut for fourth year students from \$200 to \$300 and create an annual reduction of \$50 for second year students. This would represent a reduction of \$120,200 in TAP funding for SUNY Brockport students.
- The proposal to eliminate adjustments to the formula for multiple members of the family in full-time college attendance would again affect those families with significant need. It is projected that as many as 888 of our students could experience TAP reduction of up to \$159,840.
- Standards are being proposed that would require a student to successfully pass a set number of credits each semester in order to receive TAP the following semester. It is impossible to project the loss of TAP funding due to the tighter academic achievement standards.

- The proposal to eliminate TAP for graduate students would eliminate 127 students currently receiving \$21,191 from the program.

- Currently, it is possible for a student who is not making satisfactory academic progress or pursuit of program to appeal the loss of a TAP award due to extenuating circumstances. It is proposed to limit the waiver criteria to only a death in the family or the student's personal illness. We are unable to calculate the loss of TAP funding to our students due to this proposal.

In total, these proposals could cost SUNY Brockport students in excess of \$1.65 million in TAP funding. The effect of this is exacerbated by the fact that over 1,300 of our TAP eligible students are unable to obtain other campus-based aid and have already borrowed their annual loan limits. They would be unable to obtain additional student loan resources to replace the reductions in their TAP awards. This could have a significant impact on our enrollment at SUNY Brockport as well as at the other public institutions in New York State.

Thus, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of SUNY College at Brockport call upon the Governor and Legislature to engage in a planning process to determine SUNY wide tuitions based on factors other than current year budget considerations, and to redress the proposed disproportionate impact of state TAP reductions on students in the public sector.